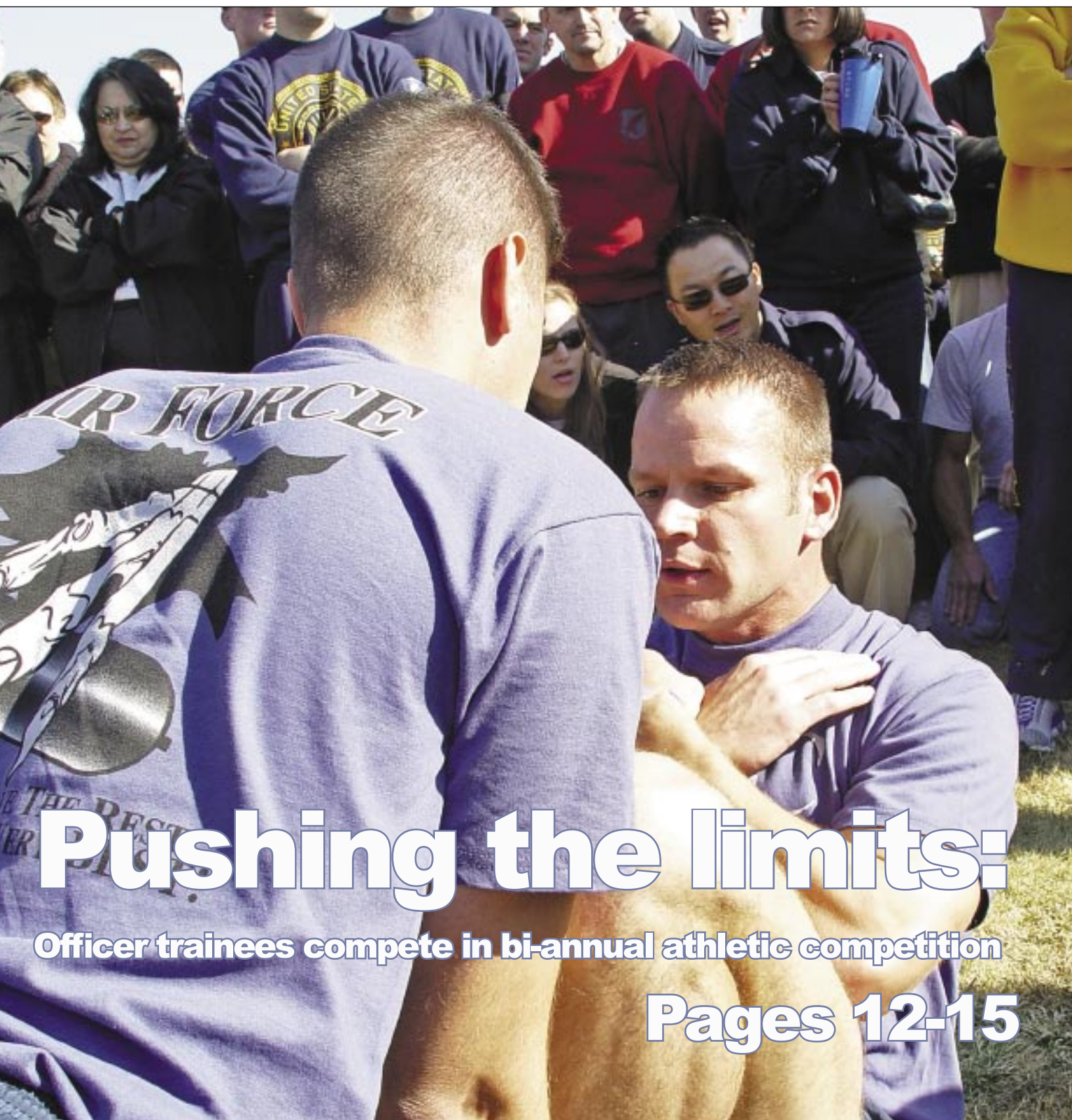


Leader

December 2005

Magazine for Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools



Pushing the limits:

Officer trainees compete in bi-annual athletic competition

Pages 12-15

Cadets Eric Eaton, Travis Roeder, Latasha Eggerling and Eugene Pinckney, sport old and new Air Force uniforms. Cadet Pinckney is wearing a 1950s blue wool flight suit and Cadet Roeder is wearing the summer version of the blue Air Force service dress 1950s – 1960s also known as “silver tans or 505s.” (Photo by Jonah Earl)



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Cover: 2nd Lt. Marcus Truman squeezes in as many sit ups as he can in a two-minute time period during the super physical fitness test Oct. 29 at the Joint Military Athletic Competition in Pensacola, Fla.

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Expanding the possibilities

Gen. T. Michael Moseley

Air Force Chief of Staff

To my fellow Airmen,

Our Air Force has an incredible heritage ... a heritage built on courage, valor, brilliance, and perseverance. The new Air Force Chief of Staff reading list captures this rich history. Frankly, the stories will not only fill you with pride, but they are also intense and compelling. Many of the great Airmen of the past, including Billy Mitchell and Hap Arnold, made time to read and study military history. They used the knowledge to understand their world as it was and to see the possibilities of what it could become.

This first portion of the new CSAF Reading List captures the stories and visions of our founding fathers and Air Force Pioneers. Through the next four years, the Reading List will change, journeying from our past to our future horizons. The books will be available through our schools at Air University and our Air Force libraries. Some of these books are among my own personal favorites, and I hope you will enjoy them as much as I have.

As we tackle all the challenges facing us today, I have no doubt we will succeed. We have done it before, and we will do it again. Our history proves our success is not



Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons

founded on our technology, but on our Airmen. You are what makes this Air Force the most powerful Air Force in the world; our nation is proud of who you are and what you have done, and I am proud to serve along side of you. Keep up the great work. ■

Our Air Force Heritage

Billy Mitchell: Crusader for Air Power – Alfred F. Hurley

A Question of Loyalty: Gen Billy Mitchell and the Court-Martial that Gripped the Nation – Douglas Waller

Winged Defense: The Development and Possibilities of Modern Air Power Economic and Military – William Mitchell

Air Power: The Men, Machines, and Ideas that Revolutionized War, From Kitty Hawk to Gulf War II – Stephen Budiansky

The Influence of Air Power upon History – Walter J. Boyne

Air Force Roles and Missions: a History – Warren A. Trest

Locating Air Force Base Sites: History's Legacy – Edited by Frederick J. Shaw

Our Military History

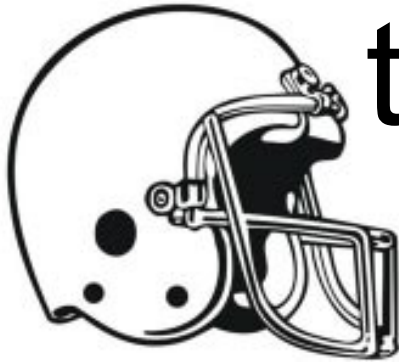
A History of the American People – Paul Johnson

1776 – David McCullough

General George Washington: A Military Life – Edward G. Lengel

Victory at Yorktown: The Campaign that Won the Revolution – Richard M. Ketchum

Teaching leadership through athletics



By Capt. Patrick Lavery
AFOATS Curriculum

Most children who play youth sports learn the cardinal rule of sports – it doesn't matter if you win or lose; it's all about playing the game and having fun. These rules also teach us about military leadership.

"Upon the fields of friendly strife, are sown the seeds that, upon other fields, on other days, will bear the fruits of victory," said Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Medal of

Honor winner and Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Pacific during World War II.

On the field, we learn about teamwork, good sportsmanship, playing fair and playing hard. It is easy to take these basic principles and equate them to our Air Force Core Values. I learned Integrity First when my coaches told me to respect my opponents and play them hard ... but in a fair manner. There is no glory in winning a contest when you

cheat – it is one of the most enduring lessons of sportsmanship. There is also no better example of Service Before Self than to play on a team where you sacrifice your personal glory to help the team win. The home run hitter who lays down the perfect sacrifice bunt knows about putting the team first. And last, but certainly not least, I can still hear the coaches yelling to play as hard as I could until the final whistle blows or the final out is recorded, even if



you're losing 10-0 in the 9th inning of a baseball game. The lesson of never giving up has taught me about Excellence in All We Do.

The goal within the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools programs is to take the classroom material we teach about leadership and allow our students to apply those lessons on our fields of friendly rivalry. Officer trainees at Officer Training School, Ala., play flickerball, a team building game which involves running, catching and throwing, while the cadets in ROTC play Ultimate Frisbee, a game with both soccer and football elements.

In addition to reinforcing the core values, athletic events help players visualize the desired results and then being able to articulate the vision to the team members.

For example, many sport coaches use information about their opponent's strengths and weaknesses to their team's advantage. The ability to transfer the information into practical tactics against the opponent gives the team an edge. These are also the same leadership attributes our country demands of its military officers today.

In the book, "The Education of a Coach" by David Halberstam, he talks about how Bill Belichick, the head coach of the New England Pa-

triotics, gives leadership tips that are also applicable to military leaders. He talks about the importance of properly planning to face your opponent, creating problems for your opponents by creating mismatches when on offense, and how being good on defense is all about reacting to the challenges your opponent puts in front of you. If the old axiom, "No plan survives first contact with the enemy" is true, then the way to teach our officers to react and adapt in a hostile environment is to put them on a competitive athletic field and make them engage a thinking and adapting adversary.

On the sports field I learned about organizing, risk taking, using proper resources, and the importance of good communication skill and these attributes have guided me in my 20-year career, first as an NCO and now as an officer. Because of lessons I learned playing sports, I understand the importance of using the greatest resource we have – our people – and I was able to put them in positions where they could best use their strengths. I also understand the importance of having a clear message and knowing how to convey that message to ensure everyone is on the same page and working towards the same goals, regardless of what service they are in or whether they speak the same language that I do.

I also understand that sometimes you have to take a calculated risk after you weigh the potential costs and benefits before moving forward. Do I kick an extra point to tie the game and take a chance in overtime or do I go for the two point conversion and either win or lose right now? President John F. Kennedy said, "There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long range risks of comfortable inaction."

Sports and the military have always shared a rhetorical bond. How many times have you heard a football coach called a brilliant strategist? Think



Courtesy photos

Officer trainees at Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., play flickerball to enhance their team building and leadership skills. Flickerball is a combination of football, basketball, soccer and hockey. It was invented in the late 1940s.

about it, that same term has often been used for brilliant military leaders as well. Success in both sports and the military is most often determined by execution, which as Machiavelli taught, can erase a multitude of mis-cues along the way. I've played sports for nearly 40 years and in my current job I get to see OTS apply leadership lessons every few weeks on the flickerball field. They are developing campaign plans to help them defeat their opponent, organizing their flights for the upcoming fight, and communicating their game plans in a clear and concise manner.

The next time someone tells you that sports and leadership don't mix, make sure you point out that many of our greatest military leaders credit their success to the lessons they learned growing up on the athletic fields of this great country. ■





D-DAY THE NORMANDY INVASION
6 June 1944

VINTAGE UNIFORMS:

THEY'RE NOT
A THING OF
THE PAST



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Det. 470, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Neb.

ROTC plays an important role in providing a positive image of the U.S. military. On college campuses, uniform-wearing cadets are the spokespeople of the armed forces for faculty members and students.

Just as training and education are keys to the success of the Air Force ROTC program, uniformity is another important aspect of the program. The Air Force keeps ROTC cadets in the most up-to-date uniforms to uphold the Air Force image and provide a sense of pride and belonging.

Since the Air Force's creation, Air Force ROTC cadets have played a vital role in building up the image of the Air Force. This image, though continuously changing, offers people a chance to look back at the Air Force heritage and appreciate how far the uniform has come in such a short time.

The Air Force was established Sept. 18, 1947, and on that day the Army's brown shoes were traded in for black shoes. By the end of September 1947, what was previously known as the Army's Air ROTC became Air Force ROTC. In late 1949, the Air Force introduced the blue service dress uniform, the blue Eisenhower "Ike" jacket, and by the end of the 1950s several specific Air Force uniform combinations were being issued.

The quest for a new identity has gone on for more than 58 years, and it seems by the Air Force's 60th anniversary the Air Force will have changed its uniform more often than the Army and Navy combined over the past 200 years.

Flexibility is the key to the Air Force's success, but the ability to continuously accept a more streamlined future could overshadow the importance of embracing the past.

A staff sergeant at Det. 470 has collected uniforms from World



Courtesy photos

On Page 4 – 5: A D-day display is set up at the Omaha Veteran's Hospital in Nebraska. The display features World War II airborne and Army Air Forces uniforms, equipment and memorabilia.

Top: Also displayed among the uniforms are photos of Women in the Air Force marching in a parade, two African American Army Air Force members and two Air Force ROTC cadets outside Headquarters Air Force ROTC in the 1950s.

Above: Shown are brown shoes from World War II that an officer would have worn, a magazine article describing the Air Force ROTC patch circa 1950s, The "Hap Arnold" Army Air Forces patch of World War II, a navigators flight case, and a photo of WAF enlisted members with a general officer at HQ AFROTC Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

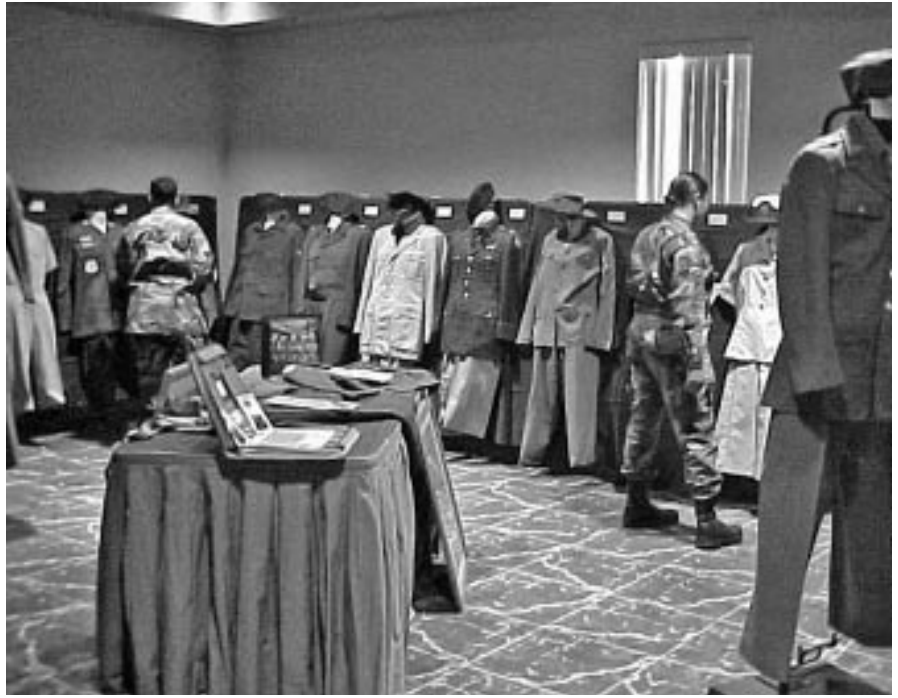
War I till present day to help preserve the Air Force's history. Staff Sgt. Jack Waid has single-handedly collected and showcased Air Force memorabilia.

"(The display) provides a great service to the Air Force and the history of aviation by maintaining a one-of-a-kind historical display of uniforms, insignia and headgear," said Lt. Col. Ted Spencer, Det. 470 commander. "This is quite a tremendous accomplishment for a single individual, not affiliated with any museum or archive, to maintain and preserve such a vast historical collection. Sergeant Waid's collection showcases our enlisted and officer heritage from the very beginnings of aviation in World War I to the present day conflicts of Iraq and Afghanistan. His specialty uniform displays, such as Cold War era missileer flight suits, badges, and insignia, allow us to reflect on the many turbulent periods of our nation's history and the Air Force's contribution throughout these trying times.

"Those of us currently serving in the Air Force can take real pride in our history and the evolution of our great service as they gaze upon Sergeant Waid's incredible display of historical uniforms," said Col. Spencer. "He is preserving an important piece of our heritage that reflects well upon all the men and women of the Air Force, Army Air Corps and Aviation Service who have gallantly gone before us. We owe Sergeant Waid a debt of gratitude for taking his own time, initiative, and resources to preserve an important piece of our heritage."

For more than two years, cadets and students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Neb., remember the Air Force's rich heritage when they see Det. 470 cadets wearing vintage Air Force uniforms.

"The vintage uniforms give me a sense of pride and wearing something that represents the men and



Courtesy photo

Cadets look at the vintage uniform displays at the University of Nebraska campus at Omaha, Neb.

women who have served before me so that I now have the opportunities to excel. It is all the more reason to wear the vintage Air Force uniforms – to honor them," said Cadet Eric Eaton.

"Make your own history with Air Force ROTC," is a slogan coined by the detachment to attract prospective cadets. The uniforms are displayed in showcases on the campus. The showcases have officer uniforms from the past in specific career fields of interest to the university's students, such as aviation and nursing uniforms.

"I think the older uniforms are very good to have around. Not only do they show different changes in military dress, they also remind us of what our servicemen and women have gone through in those uniforms," said Cadet Jeremy Powell.

The detachment's goal is to display and wear the vintage uniforms to remind students, faculty and cadets of our nation's rich military and Air Force heritage.

"Having the opportunity to wear

a vintage World War I uniform was one of the highlights in my Air Force ROTC experience. I was able to say thank you to our nation's veterans and that means a lot," said Cadet Johnathan Fletcher.

Since 1997, Sergeant Waid has been collecting Air Force uniforms. His showcase is entitled, "Touch and Go with the Runways of the Past." The collection had been featured at multiple states, at university campuses, Air Force bases, Air National Guard bases and Veteran Affairs hospitals.

Past Air Force members and Air Force sponsored organizations have donated items to the collection. Some notable donations have come from three major generals, one brigadier general, and four chief master sergeants of the Air Force.

Sometimes uniforms are purchased at auctions, second-hand stores, surplus stores and yard sales. The collection consists of more than 80 uniforms to include some Army, Navy and Marine uniforms used for displays at other locations. ■

Wearing the uniform with pride:

By Staff Sgt. Jack Waid

Det. 470, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Neb.

Having the honor to wear vintage uniforms within the detachment has offered a rare opportunity to the entire cadet wing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Seeing the vintage uniforms worn or displayed leads one to think about past and present ROTC cadets and how they felt and feel about wearing the Air Force uniform.

However, there are many misconceptions new cadets often have about the proper wear of the current Air Force uniform. In addition, there are some seasoned cadets who still need reminders on the wear of the uniform.

The uniform is our image and often the first impression anyone has of an Air Force ROTC cadet. Many cadets joke about being mistaken for active-duty Army enlisted members or Air Force officers. This adds even more importance to how cadets look and act in uniform.

Across the board cadets typically forget to adjust their gig-line and allow their shirt to become untucked throughout the day.

Cadet Eric Eaton remembers thinking, "What the heck is a gig-line?" He further remembers the "rush of adrenaline, pride, and power that came with my first short-sleeve blues uniform. I remember the nervousness I felt as I walked to my first leadership laboratory. I kept thinking, does the 'V' of my rank go to the back or the front? How many fingers did I have to use to line up my flight cap correctly? Does this name tag go on the right or the left side of my uniform?"

His fears were soon alleviated during his first laboratory. Upper-class cadets corrected Cadet Eaton's and other new cadets'

uniforms. Now Cadet Eaton has the opportunity to help new cadets as an upper classman. He can help calm the fears most new cadets have when wearing the Air Force uniform for the first time.

The impressions you get when the new cadets wear the blues for the first time can run the spectrum of thinking they slept in their uniform or thinking they spent hours on making their uniform look sharp. Even when the uniform looks great the accouterments may not be worn correctly. Uniform violations can include wearing



Photos by Henry Grayson

Cadets Rickey Anderson and Christina Ortiz from Det. 019, Alabama State University, Ala., wear the short-sleeves blues uniform in accordance to the Air Force ROTC Instruction 36-2008.



Cadets pay attention to the details

the rank backwards, wearing male rank as a female or visa versa, flight caps that are too big or small, accidentally wearing the wrong type of flight cap, crew neck t-shirts instead of the V-neck with blues. Cadets can feel a sense of pride when wearing the uniform and even more so when they look squared away.

The same is true when wearing the battle dress uniform. A simple look over will indicate how much time was spent preparing for the wear of the uniform. Common mistakes with the wear of the uniform are wearing the wrong belt, not wearing a belt, wrong color t-shirts (professional military course cadets can wear black t-shirt, while general military course cadets can only wear green) and not rolling the sleeves correctly.

General military course represents the first two years in a four-year ROTC program. Successful completion of the GMC requirement and the four-week field training exercise qualifies a student to apply for entry into the professional military course.

Along with the BDUs, the flight suit also has an assortment of issues. One issue concerns the placement of patches with four places for patches for each flight suit. There is the question of what to wear underneath the flight suit.

Cadets can sometimes wear the physical fitness uniform incorrectly because they do not tuck-in their t-shirt. Though civilian jacket and coats are permitted for wear with the physical fitness uniform, it is always nice to see when a cadet goes above and beyond to wear a matching jacket or an Air Force-related coat with their fitness gear.

The service dress and mess dress uniforms are no exception to the types of Air Force uniforms cadets may have difficulty wearing properly. Sometimes prior service cadets think they can wear their name tag with their service dress as a GMC. Actually, they can only wear name tags when they are a POC and have successfully completed field training.

“Getting the cadets to wear the U.S. insignia in the right place is hard. Proper placement and order of cadet ribbons is also difficult for the cadets to get right when in service dress or blues,” said Howard Kjeldgaard, the detachment’s uniform custodian.

The cadet mess dress is the same as officer mess dress without the rank and the cuff braid. One issue that comes up is whether or not prior service cadets can wear their active duty medals with the mess dress. Members may only wear medals earned as members of Air Force ROTC, medals for valor or gallantry earned on active duty in Civil Air Patrol and in any service’s ROTC or Junior ROTC program.

After a period of time, cadets fall into the routine of wearing the uniform and slowly get everything correct in how the uniform should be worn. This is just the beginning of many years of wearing the Air Force uniform. When cadets taught how to properly wear the cadet uniform they will make the best first impression when they enter active duty.

Cadets can refer to Air Force ROTC Instruction 36-2008, Air Force ROTC Senior Uniforms and Insignia for further uniform wear guidance. ■



Fear strikes

Cadets participate in local terrorist exercise

By Cadet Clayton Aune

Det. 610, North Dakota State University, N.D.



Screams of “Aaaaahhhh ... my arm!,” “Help! We’re burning!” and “Get us out of here!” could be heard by curious and stunned bystanders. A terrorist had just driven his bomb-laden car into a school bus, sending glass shards and shrapnel tearing through its occupants and igniting a fire in the engine compartment. The bus tipped over on its side, sending those inside tumbling and further adding to the calamity at hand. The terrorist had also planted a secondary bomb in the ditch nearby, further endangering those trapped inside the bus and all emergency responders.

Eleven ROTC cadets from Det. 610 and 13 volunteers from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., were simulating being stuck inside a tipped over school bus, Oct. 13.

They were participating as the wounded school bus passengers in a mock terrorist attack. With other volunteer bystanders desperately trying to evacuate the injured, emergency law enforcement personnel arrived at the scene to secure the area. They were quickly followed by firefighters who wasted no time in extinguishing the simulated flames. After the bus was safe to approach, the emergency exit was kicked down and the wounded were evacuated.

A few hours before the scenario began, volunteers gathered at the Grand Forks AFB medical clinic to receive injury makeup, patient information cards and an explanation of their character roles. The wounded were then bussed out to the crash



site and given a brief explanation of what was about to happen.

At 4 p.m. the Grand Forks AFB inspector general team, who was on site to evaluate the exercise, made the emergency call to start the operation.

First, the wounded were safely removed from the bus. A joint operation of firefighters from Grand Forks, Larimore and Emerado descended upon the overturned bus with the Jaws of Life, axes, picks, metal cutting saws and reinforced inflatable airbags. For safety reasons the wounded were not permitted to occupy the school bus during this portion of the exercise. Firefighters cut off the emergency door of the bus along with a large portion of the back wall and made a big hole in the roof. Once cutting was complete some volunteers entered the bus to simulate the unconscious and paralyzed. This allowed the firefighters to practice removing wounded from a very small and confined space. Afterward, the responders lifted the bus up onto inflatable bags to remove a human dummy trapped underneath.

Then, the Grand Forks County Bomb Squad diffused the improvised explosive device the terrorist had positioned in the ditch alongside the road. One of the bomb squad officers suited up and went to have a look. With the "All clear!" sounded this phase of the operation was complete.

Medical response then triaged the wounded cadets and base volunteers at the scene and rushed to Altru Hospital in Grand Forks where an emergency trauma unit was waiting. With decontamination facilities in place, the doctors and nurses processed and prioritized the wounded, and rushed some to the emergency room to receive mock treatment. This concluded the operation for the volunteer wounded, who were treated to a dinner at the hospital's cafeteria.

"Although it was dull at times, being able to help the base and local community emergency teams was a

great experience," said Cadet Brandon Dvergsten. "It was really interesting to see how everything came together."

"The exercise was a huge success overall," commented Maj. Charles Huthala, a Grand Forks AFB inspector general team member. "We had some new medical personnel who needed training, and this was very helpful. This was a great opportunity for the base and community to be able to work together and see what each brought to the fight."

The exercise directly involved more than 100 emergency personnel from the base and surrounding communities and 150 more who were involved in the behind the scenes aspect of the operation. A terrorist attack of this type would probably be considered rare in Grand Forks, N.D., but the training did serve a very beneficial purpose. The Air Force has many training requirements that need to be

completed regularly, as do the civilian units. This mass casualty exercise provided many organizations the opportunity to complete their training requirements, gain experience, learn how to coordinate efforts and practice with rarely-used equipment.

"The tipped-over bus was a great training tool for the firefighters. They had never encountered anything like that before," remarked Major Huthala.

The volunteer cadets said they were happy to have been a part of the operation and to lend a hand to the training of some of America's emergency response crews.

"It was a great experience helping the emergency personnel train for a day that will hopefully never come. But I also enjoyed spending time with fellow cadets while someone else was going through training for a change," said Cadet John Widmer, a volunteer onlooker. ■



Photos by Rachel Aune

Top left: Exercise officials recreate a car and bus collision for a terrorist exercise at North Dakota in October.

Lower left: Cadet Joshua Paluch receives medical attention for his simulated injuries. Above: Emergency personnel examine Cadet Clayton Aune's simulated head injuries after firefighters removed him from the overturned bus.

Intense training readies OTS to meet Army, Navy counterparts

By Senior Airman Krista Coons

Leader editor



Officer trainees from three different Officer Training School classes competed Oct. 29 in the bi-annual Joint Military Athletic Competition in Pensacola, Fla.

The competition tests the Army, Navy and Air Force officer trainees in various events: a three-mile run, 4-by-400 yard relay, super physical fitness test, super physical fitness relay, volleyball and stretcher carry race. After achieving 90 percent or higher physical training scores, officer trainees tried out for positions in different events.

Basic officer trainees, upper and lower classmen, and commissioned officer trainees trained five days a week to prepare for the event. However, due to the start dates of the classes some team members joined the efforts later than others. Upper

class BOT officer trainees trained for 11 weeks, lower class BOT trained for about five weeks and COT trained for three weeks.

"We practiced during normal physical training times and ran in community events," said 2nd Lt. John Myers Jr., who competed in the three-mile run.

Depending on the event trainees were competing in they would sometimes train after school.

"I trained during normal PT sessions for the super PFT, and we practiced the litter carry during the afternoon," said 2nd Lt. Valerie Jean Cookson, who competed in the super physical fitness test and was the litter carry team captain. The super PFT includes timed push ups, sit ups and pull ups and a two-mile run.

Training for the competition also

taught the trainees to manage their time better. Trainees were expected to accomplish the same tasks as their non-training counterparts as well as train for their events.

"Sometimes it felt like we were stressed for time, but later on in training we didn't feel as much as we were under the gun as the lower classmen. As the training progressed it felt like less of a stressor. When you first get into the program and you have so much thrown at you at one time, it is almost as if there is too much to accomplish in a 24-hour period. But as you go along you get into a specific routine and that goes a long way in helping you feel that you have sufficient time to complete the tasks," said Lieutenant Cookson.

The training also provided a foundation for trainees to build future



Photos by Senior Airman Krista Coons



leadership skills. Besides reinforcing the Air Force Core Values, it helped encourage positive relations between trainees of different backgrounds.

"It taught us about being on a team, interacting with team members, pushing each other beyond limits we thought we were capable of pushing each other as well as taking lead at different times during practices when other people were feeling like they couldn't go anymore. It also helped us get to know each other better because we were practicing with people outside our flight," said Lieutenant Myers.

"The competition exemplifies the core values, especially Excellence in All We Do, because even though we knew we may not be the best athletes we give it our all. We're always putting 100 percent forth even though we not may the same type of training the Army does with the more physical officer training they have," said Lieutenant Cookson.

The competition also reinforced the importance of teamwork. Coaches, competitors and spectators came together to encourage and support one another.

"We learned a lot – to be a good leader you can also be a strong team member. Every single member of the team was a valuable asset and not one of us could accomplish it without every other single person on the team," said Lieutenant Cookson.

Both Lieutenant Myers and Cookson graduated from BOT at Officer Training School, Ala., Nov. 4. Lieutenant Myers is a developmental engineer at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., and Lieutenant Cookson is a personnel officer at Mount Home AFB, Idaho.

The competition takes place in one of three locations: Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Pensacola Naval Station, Fla., or Fort Benning, Ga. The next JMAC will be held in May at Ft. Benning, Ga. ■

Far left: 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Sukolsky sprints to the finish line to pass the baton onto the next officer trainee at the Joint Military Athletic Competition in Pensacola, Fla.

Above: 2nd Lt. Devereaux Rogan holds on tight while Capt. Paul M. Sanford and 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Sukolsky carry the front leg of the stretcher as 2nd Lt. Preston Webster and Officer Trainee Kyle Jansen hold the back during the stretcher carry race.

Left: 2nd Lt. Valerie Cookson races to the finish line in the super physical fitness test's two-mile run.

Air Force final standings



Three-mile run – 2nd place
4-by-400 yard relay – 3rd place
Super PFT – 3rd place
Volleyball – 3rd place
PFT relay – 2nd place
Stretcher carry – 2nd place
Tug-of-war – 2nd place

Overall score

1st place – Army
2nd place – Navy
3rd place – Air Force



Photos by Senior Airman Krista Coons

*Top left: Volleyball referees discuss the score during a break in the game as Air Force officer trainees use the opportunity to regroup.
Lower left: The tug-of-war is from front to back 2nd Lt. Frank Brisendine, 2nd Lt. Justin Barrett, Officer Trainee Alexander Demma and 2nd Lt. Matthew Jones pull as hard as they can in the tug-of-war competition.
Far right: 2nd Lt. Laura Desio runs to the finish line in the three-mile run.*



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Betz

Language submersion

One cadet journeys to Morocco to enhance her Arabic speaking skills

By Cadet Jane Elzeftawy

Det. 085, University of California at Berkeley, Calif.



Courtesy photo

Above: Cadet Jane Elzeftawy from Det. 085 at the University of California at Berkeley stands in front of a decorative ceiling at the Al-Akawayn University. A group of seven cadets and a chaperone traveled to Ifrane, Morocco for the Arabic Foreign Language Immersion Professional Development Training from May 26 to June 26.

Far right: Nadia Patel, left, from the University of Pennsylvania and Cadet Anna Elzeftawy from Det. 085 take an early morning camel ride in Merzouga, Morocco.

Some 36 hours after blearily leaving my apartment in San Francisco, Calif., at 3:30 a.m. on one hour of sleep, I stepped off the crowded Royal Air Maroc 767 expecting to breathe deeply of the early morning desert ... humidity? Such was the first of many stereotypes of Morocco to come crashing down during the next 30 days, and the first one came no later than 30 seconds after entering the country! I could tell I was in for some major culture shock.

From May 26 – June 26, a group of seven cadets and a chaperon traveled to Ifrane, Morocco for the Arabic Foreign Language Immersion Professional Development Training. The four cadets from United States Air Force Academy and three from Air Force ROTC were selected to attend this program to obtain a better grasp on Arabic as a living language and the dialectical difficulties that accompany learning it even in a native environment. My sister, Anna, and I were both selected to go from Det. 085 at University of California at Berkeley. We studied at the Al-Akhawayn University, a liberal royally commissioned university that is more westernized than most places in Morocco. Upon disembarking from the plane in the capital of Casablanca, we began the five-hour drive to the university and our month of immersion.

Not only was Casablanca humid and verdant, but we didn't find the desert vistas that I was expecting at the university either. For the next month, we lived in the forested, mountain town of Ifrane (pronounced If-rAHn) that doubles as both a university town and a ski resort/playland for the upper class during winter months. We lived on the university campus, which was completely walled in with only two entry points. All of the Moroccan students at AUI must be trilingual in Arabic, French, and English and are required to pass entrance exams in all three



languages to study there full time. It is very different from most of the country, even from the town outside the walls. The western appearance and abundance of English speakers was a welcoming atmosphere that offered a bit of familiarity for our learning environment, but encouraged us at the same time to experience the rest of Morocco. Once we finally got into the groove of things, we were attending language class at AUI from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with one hour reserved for immersion in the Moroccan dialect of Arabic. Since Arabic is my major, I was in an advanced level class with four other people, two professors and a teaching assistant, who was a native student at AUI. The program itself consisted of about 60 students, all at different levels with the language.

I quickly realized that my two professors, as accommodating and earnest as they were, spoke very little English. Since our teaching assistant attended our class only occasionally, we had to fumble along with our questions, concerns and so on, hoping our professors understood our wild gesticulations, garbled Arabic and stick-figure drawings. But the five

hours of enforced Arabic everyday brought a wave of change as we really began to see improvements in one another. Our professors hunted us down at lunch and made us spend the lunch hour speaking to each other. We could never escape. They even snuck us out of the university during one of our dialect hours to buy us coffee in the local market, making us order our drinks and converse, stumbling and laughing, with our benevolent waiters.

But it wasn't all school work and no play. Escape from the confines of the university was frequent and encouraged, so we did our homework drills in the local coffee shops and strolled around the sleepy mountain town. A couple of the cadets developed an affinity for one of the local cafes and evolved a sort of give and take with the waiters: they would practice Arabic with you if you practiced English with them. The university also planned several cultural trips for us, forays into nearby cities to experience all facets of the country, including the tourist capital, Marrakech, Fez, and to Merzouga, a town on the edge of the Sahara, for the real desert ex-

perience. Morocco proved to be much larger than I thought, about the size of California, so it was possible to get to a lot of the northern cities, but many in the south remained out of reach for our short weekend trips. The Air Force cadet group made our own excursions to Rabat, the capital of Morocco, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the inspector general of the Moroccan Air Force, General Boutalib. We also visited Casablanca and Marrakech during our adventures.

Being in a smaller group helped a little bit with what I called the “tourist problem” which is when 50 other students of the AUI language program get off a tourist bus in the middle of a crowded market and expect not to get attacked with people hawking some pretty scarf or shirt for a price 10 times higher than what they would dare to ask a Moroccan. Our cadet group, with our Moroccan native advisor from USAFA, Dr. Salah-Dine Hammoud, managed to get good deals for our souvenirs and to improve our bargaining skills. I really enjoyed our group; seven to eight cadets was the perfect size: large enough to get to know a good bunch of people *well* and small enough travel places all

together and experience Morocco as a group, with the expert guidance of Dr. Hammoud.

The AUI program also had other cultural and language tools for us to use, like music, acting, or calligraphy clubs which we were free to join. As cadets, we were often singled out at the program as “the Air Force group” from among the 60 or so other students from the United States. We had special privileges; we didn’t have to do certain mandatory events (like the clubs mentioned above) like the other students so we would have more free time to connect with the culture. Because an Air Force cadet group had used the same university’s program the year before, we reaped the benefits of their experience by being able to plan a lot of our own trips and do our own exploration. As a result, we spent a lot more time than the other students pursuing the actual point of the program: language immersion. We spoke almost incomprehensible “Arab-lish” (a complex pidgin of English and Arabic that evolved between friends) to each other and with Dr. Hammoud.

All these great experiences and to think the program almost didn’t happen. We went through a number of cancella-

tions and problems with the execution of this program. Early in March, the seven cadets were told that our funds had been appropriated for the Global War on Terror thus our trip would be cancelled. The program had to scramble to find funding from other sources, and as a result, cadets who were still interested in going had to front the money for the trip, about \$4,500 for tuition and a plane ticket, until the funding from the Olmsted foundation came through. At one point, we lost hope of the program ever getting off the ground. Thankfully, all the kinks were ironed out and all seven cadets and Dr. Hammoud, our USAFA advisor, met at the Montreal Airport for our flight to Casablanca.

The trip was an invaluable experience for us because it accomplished all its goals – we were educated in an important, modern language in a dynamic and authentic setting that really gave us an appreciation for the language as it exists in Morocco and the culture of the people we lived with. As future officers in the Air Force, it certainly contributed our understanding of the Moroccan cultural perspectives and gave us valuable insight into the country and its history. In America, it is usually sufficient to speak English, and we demand that everyone does it as well. Even being half Egyptian myself on my dad’s side, I still grew up speaking English and expecting that others do the same. But for members of the military, it is more important than ever to be able to speak another language, as it just gives us one more leg up on our enemies and one more way to connect with our allies.

When it was all over, I thought I would be ready to go home to my hometown in Las Vegas to speak English with my friends and family, shop at malls and all the rest, but I felt like I was just getting started. There was so much more to learn, see and figure out. It made me realize just how much I have to learn about the rest of the world and that the best way to do that is to actually go out and see it. ■



Courtesy photo

Cadet Anna Elzeftawy, left, and Cadet Jane Elzeftawy from Det. 085 prepare leave the Jama Al-Fina, the public square, in Marrakech, Morocco.

JROTC cadets walk for freedom

By Cadet George Castiglia

NJ-20002, Old Bridge High School, N.J.

Forty-three cadets from Old Bridge High School, N.J., and three cadets from Det. 485 from Rutgers University, N.H., traveled to Washington D.C. as the honor unit to participate in the Reserve Officers Association's U.S. FreedomWalk Festival from Oct. 21 to Oct. 23.

Participants walked 24 miles over two days through Washington and Arlington, Va. The chairman of the event, Col. Tim Miner, stated that the

walk involves "hundreds of walkers from around the world" and that these events helped to bring together these seemingly different associations.

The unit's honor guard performed during the opening ceremonies, and Cadet Justin Grossman sang the National Anthem.

Following the welcoming remarks, the U.S. FreedomWalk Festival honor unit streamer was added on to the Old Bridge High School's Junior ROTC unit guidon by the deputy Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Ken Moritsugu.

To conclude the morning's events was the laying of the wreath before the Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial in Rosslyn, Va., which commemorates the freedom of the press, by Cadets Kuldeep Madan and Cassandra Lio.

"It's one of our basic rights," said Cadet Kuldeep, "if we lose that then we cease to be free."

At noon, the cadets Vashal Patel and Leo Lukban presented a wreath at the National Law Enforcement Memorial. "Freedom is protected by civilians as well," said Colonel Miner.

On the second day, cadets took an

early morning walk to the final ceremonial duty at Arlington National Cemetery. Rows of white marble and granite stones stood in stark contrast to the scenic views of Arlington.

"We were in the presence of heroes. This great country was created and is preserved by them. That sort of dedication is simply awe-inspiring," said one cadet.

The last monument was The Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., is also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Cadets Stephanie Marrero, Gary Razvodovsky and Nichole Peder were chosen to present the wreath at the ceremony.

"I definitely gained a greater respect for my country," says Cadet Marrero.

This was more than a field trip – it built a lasting impression. The cadets became a motivated corps of cadets who have also developed a lasting partnership with a fellow senior ROTC detachment.

"Not only did we cross the finish line as a team but we all came together as a family," said one Old Bridge High School cadet. ■



Courtesy photos

Top left: Cadets finish laying a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in October. Lower left: Old Bridge High School cadets pay their respects during a memorial service honoring past heroes.

Right: The National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C. honors all of America's federal, state and local law enforcers who have been killed in the line of duty.



Practice makes perfect

JROTC cadets compete in regional drill competition

More than 500 Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC cadets competed in the American Legion Southeastern Regional Drill Competition Nov. 5 in Montgomery, Ala. The Union Grove High School, Ala., Navy Junior ROTC unit placed first overall, and the Houston

County High School, Ga., Air Force Junior ROTC unit placed first in the unarmed portion of the competition. The event taught cadets about discipline and unity, which is an important part of being in the military, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Walker, event coordinator. ■





Photos by Senior Airman Krista Coons



Clockwise, far left: A GA-932 cadet from Houston County High School, Ga., walks through a section of cadets tossing rifles to each other.

Top left: Cadets from Houston County High School, Ga., perform the final part of their routine for the judges.

Top right: An AL-935 cadet from Daphne High School, Ala., twirls her rifle as she stands on a makeshift platform.

Lower left: Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Hugo Lima, far left, competes in the knock-out competition. The Wheeler High School cadet earned third place.

Flying Wildcat captures cadet of the year

By Capt. Ron Horn

Det. 290, University of Kentucky, Ky.

Growing up on a cattle farm in rural Clinton, Ill., and visiting the Bluegrass State with her brother to conduct business, Cadet Natalie Schick knew where she wanted to go to college. What she didn't know was all the opportunities that would be afforded her by the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Kentucky.

Cadet Schick enrolled in ROTC classes as a freshman to help her achieve her education. Her decision provided her with more than just money for school, it provided her an avenue to succeed.

And succeed she did, recognized as the 2005 Air Force Association Cadet of the Year Award. The award was presented by Air Force Chief of Staff,

Gen. T. Michael Moseley, and Acting Secretary of the Air Force, Pete Geren, Sept. 12 at the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference in Washington, D.C.

With no significant knowledge or background of the military, Cadet Schick simply chose her favorite school and earned a four-year commander's leadership scholarship. In her first semester, Cadet Schick started to recognize the many opportunities ROTC could provide, and she was motivated to do her best to fulfill her scholarship commitment.

Her motivation paid off as she earned distinguished graduate and Top Gun honors at field training. Det. 290 commander, Col. Mark Roland, is not surprised by her selection as cadet of the year.

"It's like everything else she has done. She puts 100 percent into it and excels," said Colonel Roland.

"My leadership style is one that seeks the facts and relies on the inputs of my peers and subordinates to make effective decisions," said Cadet Schick. For new recruits she advised "Make sure you concentrate and keep-up on your school work (grades), after that everything else seems easy."

Being at the top of her class is nothing new to Cadet Schick. In high school, she was her school's class valedictorian. Cadet Schick feels her time growing up on the family farm has helped her to physically and mentally adapt to ROTC.

"I'm self-motivated and accustomed to a little hard work," she said.

Cadet Schick has held various leadership positions within the cadet corps over the past three years, which includes training officer and wing vice commander as well as being an active member of Arnold's Air Society. She has participated in the Operational Air Force – Office of Special Investigations at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Cadet Schick also participates in projects outside of ROTC. She was a peer mentor for the Department of Arts and Science on campus and within the local community she has volunteered with God's Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity and Shriners Hospital.

Already categorized as a maintenance officer, Cadet Schick plans to apply for an Air Force Office of Special Investigations position. ■



Courtesy photo

From left to right, then Acting Secretary of the Air Force, Pete Geren, Cadet Natalie Schicke, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, and Air Force Association Chairman of the Board Stephen P. Condon at the AFA's Air and Space Conference in Washington, D.C. Cadet Schick was awarded the 2005 AFA Cadet of the Year Award, Sept. 12.

Seeing blue

One lieutenant trades Army green for Air Force blues

By Ashley Wright

Air University Public Affairs, Ala.

Officer Training School, Ala., graduated another class of Air Force officers Nov. 4 – each with their own career goals.

One individual's goal stands out among the many. His goal is to become a Combat Rescue Officer.

Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Marcus Truman joined the Minnesota Army National Guard about 10 years ago as a reconnaissance specialist. After spending a year in the Army National Guard, he transferred to the Air Force.

"I liked the military, but wanted more of a role," said Lieutenant Truman. When asked why he chose the Air Force, he commented, "The standard of living is much better ... in personal recovery. (The Air Force) treats their people well."

After serving two and a half years as an avionics guidance and control systems troop at Kirkland Air Force Base, N.M., Lieutenant Truman became a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Specialist. As a SERE specialist, he went to Fairchild in Spokane, Wash. There he spent six months of intense training to learn how to survive, conceal, evade capture and rescue others in nearly every type of climate known to man: jungle, desert and arctic. He even got to eat a few bugs that "had lots of protein" but little taste.

Hearing Lieutenant Truman explain his workout regiment, which consists of intense weight and cardiovascular training, could cause a listener to break a sweat.

Part of his workout routine in-

cludes swimming exercises with flippers, mask and snorkel to help him prepare if his services are ever needed in open water rescue.

"I am living every little kids dream to be out in the woods and building fires. You get paid to jump out of helicopters and parachute," he said. He grew up in Mahatowa, Minn., a small town with a population of about 100 people and no stop signs.

Lieutenant Truman remarked about idolizing teachers as a child; now he is teaching others to survive. He spent a year teaching parachute operations among other live saving skills. Truman has also spent time in combat working for the Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component during Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in the Rescue Coordination Center.

The new lieutenant advises those interested in becoming a SERE Specialist or as a Combat Rescue officer "to stay focus on your goal. This is an unbelievable career field, both the SERE specialist and the CRO. You can make such impact on so many people. There are parts of the training that are really rough that you are not going to like. Just stay the course, work it through and concentrate on the goal."

As a CRO, Truman will be leading both SERE specialists and pararescuemen. He says that he has been working on this goal for two and half years and that it is "very competitive with the most rigorous training."

He added, "I like to think that I am a part of something greater than myself." ■



Photo by Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

Above: As part of a four-week combat rescue officer training course, Airmen are required to perform a static-line jump from a UH-1 Huey helicopter. The course also includes academic, laboratory and field training activities.

Below: 2nd Lt. Marcus Truman does pull ups at a recent athletic competition.



Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons

First RPI cadet to be elected as grand marshal

By Cadet Andrew Acer

Det. 550, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, N.Y.

A Det. 550 cadet was elected in April to the position of grand marshal, the highest student-held position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. As grand marshal, Cadet Max Yates oversees five legislative bodies, an \$8.3 million budget and five school facilities.

"We're kind of a unique school in the fact that most schools have a student body president and a chairman of the student senate," said Cadet Yates. "But here at RPI we combine the two."

Cadet Yates won the election in a 70/30 landslide victory. "During my campaign, I used the leadership skills I learned in ROTC as a guide of necessary skills needed for the success of

any organization," said Cadet Yates.

No cadet or midshipman has ever before been elected grand marshal at RPI.

"The only other grand marshal that has ever had any connection to the military was the first grand marshal, Al Harper, who was elected in 1860 and served in the union army," said Cadet Yates.

Running for grand marshal hadn't always been his plan. Upon returning for the spring semester last January, he told himself he would not run. Cadet Yates had been on the student senate for the last three years and felt he had enough.

"I wanted nothing to do with the organization in the way it existed at

the time," he said. "It was unproductive and unresponsive to student needs."

Seeking advice from the detachment cadre helped him to change his mind. "I realized it was an opportunity not only to learn in a leadership capacity, but also to make the changes. If you believe in something so strongly, you should be willing to stand up and sacrifice," he said.

Under his leadership, the student senate has already set into motion some major improvements around campus.

"We're supposed to be the voice of the students of Rensselaer. The theme this year has been results, and we're getting them," said Cadet Yates.

In response to 32 students being sued by the Recording Industry Association of America, a legal music downloading service will be available to students on campus this fall. A shuttle tracking service using global positioning system will also be launched this fall. This service will allow students to check the location of shuttles from their dorm, so that they do not wait in the cold during the winter. In addition, a mid-semester grade reporting system will be put in effect.

The grade reporting system is something RPI has not had for decades, yet three quarters of colleges and universities across the country offer this kind of system, said Cadet Yates.

Rather than let ROTC be an excuse to do less, Cadet Yates has used his experiences to help him do more. "I've definitely learned a lot from it. I enjoy doing it, because I know that we're getting things accomplished, and that's the whole point." ■




Courtesy photo

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute grand marshal, Cadet Max Yates, speaks at the first year student convocation held on the RPI campus Aug. 28. Cadet Yates is wearing the signature grand marshal top hat, signifying him as the highest-ranked elected student official on the RPI campus.

Living on the edge

Freshmen cadets Jennifer Danna and James Mattison from Det. 810 at Baylor University, Texas, battle the ropes course during a pre-deployment orientation held in August. The orientation gave the cadets the opportunity to get to know each other before school started and allowed them to start working together as a team. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Taylor)





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HH-60G Pave Hawk

The primary mission of the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter is to conduct day or night operations into hostile environments to recover downed aircrew or other isolated personnel during war. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Justin Weaver)